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|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No.   | Applicant(s) |  |
|                               | 10/600,986        | RETZ ET AL.  |  |
|                               | Examiner          | Art Unit     |  |
|                               | Patricia T Nguyen | 2817         |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-46.
3.  The drawings filed on 20 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 11/6/03
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-46 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art, U.S.

Patents # 6,094,099, # 5,216,384, # 6,734,730 B2 does not teach nor render obvious a variable gain amplifier that has, in combination with other limitations, a selectively operable shunt-shunt feedback circuit for feeding back the amplified input signal from at least one of the gain stages to the main input terminal for varying the input impedance of the variable gain amplifier, a control circuit for selecting the feedback circuit and the at least one passive shunt impedance element in response to the selected gain stage for maintaining the input impedance of the variable gain amplifier within a predetermined input impedance range; nor does it have both a first bias voltage terminal being provided to each amplifier element for receiving a first bias voltage for applying to the transconductance device, the first bias voltage being of value for minimizing the voltage dependency of the parasitic capacitance of the transconductance device when the corresponding gain stage is not selected as well as a voltage divider impedance chain, a first end of which is coupled to the main input terminal, the voltage divider impedance chain having (N-1) output taps coupled to the signal inputs of the amplifier elements of the respective ones of the gain stages from a second one to an Nth one of the N gain stages for applying the input signal to the amplifier elements of the gain stages from the second to the Nth gain stage progressively attenuated from the second gain stage to the Nth gain stage.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1927. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on 703-309-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PTN  
September 7, 2004

*Patricia Nguyen*  
PATRICIA NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER